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BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

SERVING AMATEUR RADIO IN WISCONSIN

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Renew Your License Online

by Rich Regent, K9GDF

The expiration date is printed in the upper right-hand corner of your license. Mark a reminder on your calendar a few months before it expires. ARRL members receive a FCC License Expiration Notification in the mail about four months before the expiration date. I even got a friendly radiogram a month before expiration from someone. Now you can renew your Amateur Radio license online!

You may file for electronic renewal at 90 days or less before your license will expire, or up to two years after expiration. Go to the FCC's URL for electronic renewals at http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/. To use the FCC Online Systems, you first need to register with the FCC. On the Universal Licensing System (ULS) page choose the New Users Register link. This will guide you step-by-step to enter needed information including your Social Security number. You receive a 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN), then associate it with your call, and create a Commission Registration System (CORES) password.

Now you may Log In to the License Manager to view and manage your licenses and applications, apply for a new license, and perform other license and application management tasks.

Click Online Filing Log In and enter your FRN and password. The At A Glance view of your license data will appear.

You will be allowed to click Begin the Renewal Process if there are 90 days or less before your license will expire, or up to two years after expiration.

Select Update License Information if your address is incorrect and needs to be updated. Select Continue.

There is no license application fee and no regulatory fee (both fee answers should

Check us out on the web at http://www.bsss.org

GET ON THE AIR WITH JOTA

Jamboree on the Air will celebrate its 50th year this weekend when it gets on the air October 19-21. Normally a 48 hour event, this year's JOTA will be 50 hours long in recognition of the anniversary. The fun begins at 2200 (local time) October 19 and ends at midnight (local time) October 21.

An on-the-air operating event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau, JOTA was founded in 1958 by Les Mitchell, G3BHK. It has grown to become the largest international Scout event. More than half a million Scouts and Guides in more than 100 countries participate in JOTA, involving as many as 10,000 Amateur Radio stations. The event relies on the Amateur Radio community and local hams for its success. Getting Boy and Girl Scouts (including Cubs and Brownies) on the air to talk with other Scouts around the world provides a great opportunity to expose youth to Amateur Radio.

Some troops and clubs team up to make a big splash with lots of activities, radios and antennas, offering a variety of modes to experience. For others, JOTA provides an opportunity to coach a smaller group of Scouts and to just have fun talking on the radio. Scouts usually enjoy communicating by speaking into a microphone, but some radio amateurs are able to provide other modes, such as slow-scan TV or amateur TV, satellites, packet radio, RTTY or even EME!

For more information on the 2007 Jamboree on the Air, please visit the ARRL JOTA Web site <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota> where you can find general rules, suggested exchanges and recommended frequencies. There will also be a place on the ARRL Web site to tell your JOTA stories at <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/Stories/>.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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Edited by Kenneth A. Ebneter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901 — kenneth.ebneter@verizon.net

Swapfests
And Other Social Events

November 3, 3007. Elks Lodge, 5555 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee, WI. Milwaukee Repeater Club. Across the street from Amateur Electronic Supply. 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. http://www.mrc91.org. Contact Bob Albert, AB9FB at 414-526-7011. e-mail to swapfest@mrc91.org Talk-in on 146.910, -offset 127.3 pl

November 4, 2007. Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, Swapfest The Wave Ballroom, 2350 North Casaloma Drive, Appleton, WI. Talk-In: 146.760 (PL 100). Contact: Anthony L. Mach, AB9IO,312 Second, Street. Menasha, WI 54952. Phone: 920-722-0482. Email: ab9io@yahoo.com. http://www.fcarc.us/hamfest.php.

November 17-18, 2007. Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue (at the corner of Parnell and Coliseum Blvd), Fort Wayne, IN. Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo), Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com, Talk-In: 146.88 (-). Contact: James D. Boyer, KB9IH, PO Box 10342. Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342. Phone: 260-579-2196. Email: chairman@fortwaynehamfest.com.

January 5, 2008, Waukesha, WI. 34th Annual Midwinter Swapfest, sponsored by the West Allis RAC. Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. For information contact: www.warac.org, WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or Phil, W9NAW, (414) 425-3649 GPS coordinates: Latitude 43.03227, Longitude -88.23948

January 27, 2008. WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest. DuPage Expo Center, 4050 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL. Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs. Talk-In: 145.39 (PL 103.5). Contact: John Faber, WT9Y, c/o WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189. Phone: 630-604-0157. Fax: 630-604-0157 http://www.w9ccu.org Email: info@wheatonhamfest.org

March 16, 2008. Tri-County ARC Hamfest 2007. Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 305 Heyer Drive, Jefferson, WI. Contact: TCARC, 213 Frederick Ave., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. e-mail: tricountyarc@ yahoo.com (920) 563-6381

March 28-29, 2008. AES SUPERFEST 2008. AES Milwaukee, 5710 West Good Hope Road. Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), Milwaukee, WI. http://www.aesham.com. Talk-In: 145.130/144.530 N9LKH (PL 127.3). Contact: Ray Grenier, K9KHW, 5710 West Good Hope Road, Milwaukee, WI 53223. Phone: 414-358-4088. Fax: 414-358-3337. Email: raykk9khw@aol.com

April 19, 2008, Madison Area Repeater Association Swapfest, Stoughton, WI. Mandt Community Center, 400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, WI. Inquiries can be directed to: w9hsy@execpc.com or write to MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890, Tele:608.245.8890 For more information see the MARA website www.qsl.net/mara.

June 01, 2008. Bureau County Fairgrounds, West Peru Street, (US Routes 6 & 34), Princeton, IL. Starved Rock Radio Club. http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm Talk-In: 146.955-(PL 103.5). Contact: Frank Carraro, KF9NZ, 2428 East 29th Road, Seneca, IL 61360. Phone: 815-357-1720. Email: starvedrockfest@hotmail.com

June 08, 2008. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road Wheaton, IL. Six Meter Club of Chicago. http://www.qsl.net/k9ona, Talk-In: 146.370/146.970 (PL 107.2) or 146.520. Contact: Joseph Gutwein, WA9RIJ, 6675 South Cass Avenue, Unit 3D, Westmont, IL 60559-3290. Phone: 630-963-4922. Email: wa9rij@arrl.net

July 06, 2008, (SUNDAY). Oak Creek, WI, Sponsored by the South Milwaukee ARC. American Legion Post 434, 9327 South Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Contact (414 762-3235. e-mail rvatex@aol.com

August 03 2008. Bolingbrook High School, 365 Raider Way, Bolingbrook, IL. Illinois State Convention. lingbrook Amateur Radio Society.http://www.k9bar.org. Talk-In: 147.300 +600 (PL 107.2). Contact: Tom Ballard, N9LJY, 19 W 609 Dystrup Avenue, Lemont, IL 60439. Phone: 630-739-3740, Fax: 312-499-7602, Email: tb1301@comcast.net

September13-14, 2008. Radio Expo 2008, Boone County Fairgrounds, US Routes 20 & 76, Belvidere, IL. Chicago FM Club. http://

(Continued on page 10)

Check us out on the web at http://www.bsss.org

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

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Subscription Rate

1 year (6 issues—bi-monthly) $13.95

A subscription form is in this issue. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebneter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month before the issue date. For example, the closing date for the May issue is April 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebneter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Ken Ebneter, K9EN.

Web page material should be sent to kb9csw@arrl.net Dave Spearing, KB9CSW

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebneter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebneter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Ken Ebneter, K9EN no later than eight weeks before the events date.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebneter.

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Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

CLUB MEETINGS

Appleton
FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:00PM., Goodwill Community Center, 1800 S. Appleton Road, Menasha, WI. Information: Brian Long KB9LRD fcarc@w9zl.org Website: http://www.fcarc.us

Baraboo
BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS) Check BATS Web page: http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/

Baraboo
YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: See the YTARC column elsewhere in this issue for meeting times and locations. For further information: http://www.qsl.net/ytarc.

Dubuque, IA
GREAT RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Center, 2400 Asbury Road. The club serves the tri-state area. On the Web: http://www.qsl.net/wb0lob/. Information or questions to: N0hdc@aol.com.

Eau Claire
EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, President, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Phone (715) 838-9108, Email kg9ra@ecarc.org. Web page: http://www.ecarc.org

Fond du Lac
FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Sunday net: 7:30 p.m. CDT, K9IA repeater, 145.430 - PL 107.2 Information: Jack Heil, KG9IN, 920.922.1413. Email: kg9in@fdlhams.org Web: http://www.fdlhams.org.

Fort Atkinson
TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Paul Marowsky, KD9PM, 920-674-4968., or John Satterlee, WA9SAB, 920.563.6381.

Grafton
Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC) Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center, 1665 7th. Ave., Grafton, Wisconsin www.qsl.net/orc/.

Green Bay
GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere. Information: Kevin at kb9sne@yahoo.com.

Green Lake
GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Greater Green Lake County area. Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

Houghton, MI area:
The CCRAA is the "Copper Country Radio Amateur Association" and they hold meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall. Summer meetings (June, July, August, and September) are held at the CCRAA Clubhouse in Osceola (2 mi. S. of Calumet, MI)

Hudson
St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS: Meetings: Third Monday of every month at 7:15 pm or immediately following the nets which begin at 7:00 pm. A short business meeting is held followed by a program. The club meets at the St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, 1101 Carmichael Road, Hudson WI. All are welcome! Talkin and ARES/RACES repeater: 145.130 MHz, PL tone 110.9. The ARES/RACES net is held every Monday evening at 7:00 pm immediately followed by the St. Croix Valley Friendly Net also on 145.130. All check-ins are welcome. Web site: www.pressenter.com/~scvra/. Club repeater: 147.33 PL tone 110.9. An informal breakfast gathering is held every Saturday morning, 8:00 am, at Perkins in Hudson. For additional information contact: Lou Greub, WB9PVA, Secretary. e-mail: l.greub218pressenter.com

Juneau
ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7278 KHZ, Alternate in 3.947 at 10:00 AM. & Wednesday, 1908 KHZ 8:00 PM, Wintertime.

La Crosse
Riverland Amateur Radio Club Meeting: First Tuesday. Gundersen Clinic, 1900 South Ave., La Crosse, WI. Basement Conference Room 1. Meeting at 7:00p.m. More information: http// www.qsl.net/wr9arc E-mail wr9arc@qsl.net Sunday night net at 8:00 pm on 146.970. Wednesday morning breakfast at 8:00 am at Ardie's restaurant. Friday lunch at Hooters in downtown La Crosse. http://rarc.qth.com E-mail: wr9arc@rarc.qth.com

Madison
SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: n9uw@sal.wisc.edu.

Madison
BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT Meetings: Third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in UW Union South. Room number posted on the Today in The Union board. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: w9ixg@arrl.org. Web: http://www.qsl.net/w9yt.

Madison
Madison DX Club, meetings are on every fourth Tuesday of each month; see http://madisondxclub for more details.

Madison
FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

Manitowoc
MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad) Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and Regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on northwest side of city.) For Additional information please see our club web-site www.w9dk.com or contact Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: fredandpat@lakefield.net

Marinette WI
Menominee MI
Amateur Radio Club Meetings held second Thursday 7:00PM each month BAMC Tenth Avenue Menominee Michigan in the basement. Guests welcome e-mail secretary kg9ad@arrl.net

Medford
Black River Amateur Radio Association Meetings: Normally the first Thursday of each month. Usual meeting time is 7 PM. Most meetings are held at the Taylor County Courthouse. Directions: Those attending should park in the main courthouse parking lot on the east side of the building, and enter using the main courthouse entrance or the sheriff's dept. entrance. Proceed to the lower level of the courthouse using the stairs or elevator. We meet in the "break room" on the lower level, near the Emergency Government office. Talk-in on the 147.15 repeater (114.8 Hz PL, +600 kHz offset) and 146.52 MHz simplex. Contact: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

Menomonee Falls
FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

Menomonie WI
Saturday coffee at Burger King, 544 Main Street, at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot, 2616 Hills Court, north of Wal-Mart on highway 25 North, in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Milwaukee
GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (262) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@arrl.net.

Milwaukee
MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Mailing address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: http://www.qsl.net/mrac . Email: w9rh@arrl.net.

Northeast Area
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check http://home.new.rr.com/newdxa/. Contact us at w9dxa@arrl.net.

Oak Creek
SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post #434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. In March and October the meetings are turned into Auction Nights.. The club WEB site is ww.qsl.net/wa9txe

Onalaska (see La Crosse)

QCWA Chapter 162
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162. Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

(Continued on page 7)

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary
W370 S9590 Highway 67 ● Eagle, WI 53119

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	YES	3985	1100	0600	W9IXG
BEN	YES	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	YES	3985	2215	1715	K9FHI
WNN	YES	3555	2300	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	YES	3555	2330	1830	N9JIY
WIN/E	YES	3555	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	YES	3555	0300	2200	W9UW
RCRA	NO	01/61	2230	1930	KA9OMC
	(Mondays CDT— Menomonie Area)				
Green Bay Area	NO	72/12	0245	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	NO	4.65/5.25	0200	2100	
	(South East/South Central Wisconsin)				
ARES/RACES (WRACES)	NO	3997.5	2300	1800	N9VAO
	(Sundays)				

Wisconsin Section STM Report

Wisconsin Section
STM Report
July 2007

FAQ # 71 – I'm licensed as a Technician Class operator so I'm not on the HF phone nets. How can I get some message-handling practice? Great! You're interested! We need you!

The first technique you might try is learning to handle traffic on CW. You have CW privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The Wisconsin Novice Net and the Wisconsin Slow Speed Net both meet on 3555 KHz. The WNN is at 6:00 p.m. and the WSSN at 6:30.

For voice, Local VHF nets are an excellent training ground to learn traffic handling. In fact, local nets and repeaters are the perfect route for that last mile before delivery of messages. If someone can pick up a message on HF and then relay it to its destination via two meters, that works very well. Local nets can easily practice traffic handling by referring to operating aid FSD-218, the famous pink card. Remember, it's the National Traffic *System*. Local nets are part of that system. So are you.

FAQ #72 – What are some housekeeping items to remember for our nets? Glad you asked. By following some basic procedures, we all help our nets to run more efficiently. Here are a few reminders.

- Be friendly. Learn calls and names. Be polite.
- If the net control doesn't start the net on time, call. Then offer your NCS services.
- Keep a copy of the net preambles handy.
- When you're NCS, keep things moving. List the traffic often.
- When checking in, listen first. Avoid doubling.
- If conditions are poor, listen to help with relays.
- If you can take traffic that's listed, please offer. That's what we do.
- If traffic doesn't move, offer to take it to another net.
- Use the NTS format in its complete form for your formal messages. It's good practice.
- Avoid Q signals on voice. They work fine on CW.
- Send your net reports to the net manager in as soon as possible after a net.
- Send your SARs and PSHRs to your STM by the 7th of the month..
- Encourage a new Ham to learn traffic handling.
-

August 2007

FAQ # 73 – It's significant that we have reached the Frequently Asked Question number 73. Years ago, when W9CBE suggested the format for this column, I wondered how many FAQs there might be. Hale was right. There are plenty. Here are some short answers to a few of the many questions.

(Continued on page 6)

Check us out on the web at http://www.bsss.org

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY

WISCONSIN SECTION
MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY
July 2007

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	2035	2515	5353	31	W9IXG
BEN	563	46	1124	30	KE9VU
WSBN	714	55	1035	31	K9FHI
WNN	169	15	349	29	KB9ROB
WSSN	131	16	240	27	N9JIY
WIN/E	142	25	267	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	179	41	345	31	W9UW
WRACES	116	1	247	5	N9VAO
TOTALS 4049	2714	8960	214		
MWCRN – Jun	196	59	371	5	WA9ZTY
MWCRN 157	57	404	4	WA9ZTY	

August 2007

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	2151	2780	5689	31	W9IXG
BEN	534	76	1154	31	KE9VU
WSBN	691	50	1146	31	K9FHI
WNN	115	8	242	21	KB9ROB
WSSN	130	16	246	29	N9JIY
WIN/E	139	28	235	29	WB9ICH
WIN/L	174	34	281	31	W9UW
WRACES	96	0	272	4	N9VAO
TOTALS 4030	2992	9265	207		
MWCRN				WA9ZTY	

P S H R SUMMARY
July 2007

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
KB9KEG	40	40	30	290	0	10	410
K9LGU	40	40	30	40	0	0	150
AG9G	40	40	20	35	0	0	135
K9FHI	40	40	30	5	0	10	125
WD9FLJ	40	11	10	45	0	0	106
W9RSX	40	17	10	0	0	67	

August 2007

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
KB9KEG	40	40	30	320	0	10	440
K9LGU	40	40	30	0	15	0	125
AG9G	40	40	20	20	0	0	120
K9FHI	40	40	30	0	0	0	110
WD9FLJ	40	11	10	35	10	0	106
W9RSX	40	20	10	0	0	70	

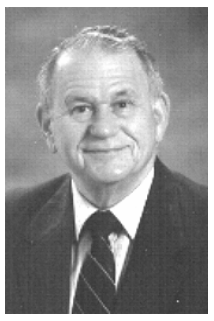
STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY
JULY 2007

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL

(Continued on page 6)

The Computer Corner

by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
715 N. Dries Street
Saukville, WI 53080-1664
(262) 268-1949
skaplan@mcw.edu



No. 139. Freeware
- by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

You have read about a number of different freeware programs here in the past, but never about freeware programs in general. This class of programs deserves a plug.

Some people think that when they pay for a program, it must necessarily be better than some freeware program that will do the same thing. "You get what you pay for", correct? It is not necessarily so! Lots of "paid for" programs are not so good, and lots of freeware programs are just outstanding. Outstanding means they do exactly what they claim, swiftly, efficiently, and without unwanted side effects such as crashes or modifying things they are not supposed to touch.

To understand why freeware can be good, let us first ask why it is written. In some cases an author writes a program and releases it as freeware with the idea that, after it has been fully exercised and tested by the user public, a final version will be released as commercial (pay for) software. If that author is a skillful writer, it may well be very good right at its initial release. On the other hand, the software may be just so-so. Or, it may be not so good.

In other cases, though, the writer has no vision of ever collecting money for the work. Some write the software to do something that they needed to do, and no programs were available that would do it well. So, the author "rolled their own" to meet their own needs, and then decide to simply share it with the rest of the computing world. I myself did something similar a number of years ago when I was on sabbatical leave from my academic medical school job, and working in my field in a hosting foreign country. It was a database program to collect and organize data on women who had been exposed to agents that can cause birth defects (that is my field). I wrote and tested it over a period of several months and left it with my host foreign med school, to be freely used throughout that country, and anywhere else it was requested. The point is, that there are lots of software writers who simply want to share with others what they have authored to meet their own need.

So, how can you tell if freeware is good? Well, you can read this column. I freely admit to being a sort of software junkie. I check majorgeeks.com at least once each day, and download, install and test programs that look interesting. If they are really top notch, they stay on my machine and I use them, and I may even write about them in this column. I would judge that about one out of every four or five that I test wind up with a permanent spot on all my machines. Ergo, if my statistics reflect the software universe and if my judgment is reasonable, up to 25% of all the freeware programs written are very, very good. That is rather amazing! Remember, we are talking about totally free software!

You can do the same thing, if you are so inclined. The important thing is to download from a reliable, safe site such as majorgeeks. They scan all their offerings (freeware, shareware and pay-for categories) for viruses, spyware and other malware, and they test the software to see that it works. They don't check to see how well it works, though. I guess that is my job, and yours.

So, what kinds of software are available? Which ones do you need? Only you can decide which are important for your computing activities, but here is a partial list of freeware to consider.

Continued on page 11

Check us out on the web at Http://www.bsss.org

WISCONSINSECTION MANAGER REPORT

JULY 2007

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: KB9ENO, STM: K9LGU, SGL: AD9X, OOC: KC9IS, PIC: KB9NUM, TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK, ACC: N9LVS, ASM: K9UTQ, W9DGI, N9VE.

With regret, I am informing you of the passing of the following Amateurs:

-- Jean Mueller, KA9VAM, 84. He was a member of WARAC. His son Carl, NF9P, and grandson Karl, N9NFQ, are also club members.

-- Mark Colbert, WD9BGC, 46.

-- John Viney, K9CMW, 80.

-- Don Franzmann, W9NFJ, 82. Don was a member of the Eau Claire ARC.

-- Al Van Dynhoven, K9ALS, 45. Al was very active in ARES and AEC for Outagamie county.

We appreciate all the Wisconsin Amateurs who volunteered for communications support in the GRABAAWR, SAGRAW, and Bike Northwoods Tours!!

24 Hours of Nine Mile 24/9 Bike Race Completed on July 28 & 29th. Hundreds of cyclists converged on the Nine Mile Recreation Area for a 24 hour bike race. 2007 marked the first year the WVRA has assisted with communications at the event. The WVRA has been asked to help again next year!

The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) has announced the 2007 winners of 56 scholarships it administers. The scholarships were open to all licensed radio amateurs who met the qualification and residence requirements of the various sponsors. Congratulations to Diann Hallam, KC9III, who received a $1000 10-10 International Net Scholarship; and to Pete Johnson, AB9PJ, who received a $1500 WARAC Memorial Scholarship from the West Allis Radio Amateur Club; and to Devin Berg, N9DRB, Madison, who received the $1000 South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Scholarship!

WSSN is Wisconsin Slow Speed Net;

WIN/E is Wisconsin Intrastate Net/ Early;

WIN/L is Wisconsin Intrastate Net/ Late;

WRACES is Wisconsin Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service net.

MCRN is the Midwest Classic Radio Net

Details on all these nets are found on this site:

https://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI under Wisconsin Traffic Nets.

Fox Cities ARC sponsored a Special Event Station at the EAA AirVenture. Many contacts were made with the multi-op station. We appreciated the opportunity to represent the ARRL and look forward to being there next year!

73, Don, W9IXG

ARRL Wisconsin Section
Section Manager: Donald E. Michalski, W9IXG
w9ixg@arrl.org

AUGUST 2007

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3985 0500-0715 W9IXG. BEN 3985 1200 KE9VU. WSBN 3985 1715-1800 K9FHI. WNN 3555 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3555 1830 N9JIY. WIN-E 3555 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3555 2200 W9UW. (All times are Central time)

With regret, I am informing you of the passing of the following Amateurs:

- Ron Warczynski, K9RON, 71.

- Carl Templin, KC9IFJ, 52. Carl was very active in communication support for public service events.

- Carl Heinritz, W9ZCU, 89.

SEC Report on ARES Activation initiated due to the August floods: To my knowledge we had activations in the following counties. If I missed someone, please let me know: Richland, Vernon, Crawford, Racine, Kenosha.

In Richland County, Emergency Coordinator Bob Naegele, W9MZ, reports 21 ARES/RACES members were activated in his county for communications between the Richland County EOC and the Red Cross, Volunteer and Donation Center at Krouskop Park, and to mobile damage assessment teams. They also answered the main incoming phone line to the EOC and passed messages to and from the Incident Command team. Richland was activated on Saturday, August 18, 2007. Richland has had its share of activations over the past two years!

Vernon County Assistant Emergency Coordinator Dave Owen, N9TUU, reported their group was activated for flooding in Vernon and Crawford Counties for a week! Dave and his wife, Vernon County Emergency Coordinated Melody Owen, N9ZWZ, provided great reports through

(Continued on page 6)

WISCONSIN STM REPORT

(Continued from page 4)

- I just handled a message from someone the recipient didn't know. Why was it sent?

Answer: There are several reasons – (1) to practice (2) to test the system (3) to encourage participation from the recipient.

- When sending a formal message by voice, is there a pause to listen between the address or phone number and the text when you say, "Break?"

Answer: Why not? The "Break" is just used to show that the text is starting, but it's also a nice spot to pause and listen to see if the receiving station needs a fill in what has gone before. A brief pause here is handy but optional. It doesn't require a response from the receiving station. If he or she doesn't say anything, you continue by sending the text.

- On CW, how do I send that "break" before and after the text?

Answer: BT. Send it even if you have full break-in and can hear the receiving station interrupt mid-word.

- For ARRL Numbered Texts, are they in figures or words?

Answer: They're always spelled out in words.

- Should "73" be written out or in figures?

Answer: In figures. It figures.

- Does the "73" before the signature in a message count in the check?

Answer: You bet. It's part of the text. It counts for one.

- Is it 73 or 73's?

Answer: It's 73. No "s." It means "Best regards." It's *already* plural. If one adds an "s," it would probably mean, "Best regardses." The English teacher in me says, "Huh?"

Until next month, 73
K9LGU/STM - WI

WISCONSIN SECTION STATION ACTIVITY

(Continued from page 4)

KA9EKG	54	698	654	38	1444 – BPL	
KA9EKG – JUN	52	694	649	33	1428 – BPL	
KB9KEG	3	289	34	289	615 – BPL	
K9LGU	2	45	57	2	106	
AG9G		0	12	50	0	62
W9BHL - JUN	0	12	45	0	57	
W9BHL	0	8	39	0	47	
K9FHI		0	11	30	0	41
KB9ROB	0	26	7	6	39	
W9UW		0	23	9	2	34
N9NNN - JUN		0	0	32	0	32
KN9P		0	15	0	15	30
KE9VU	0	27	3	0	30	
KA9BHK - JUN	0	2	0	13	15	
AA9BB - JUN		0	0	15	0	15
K9GU		0	0	14	0	14
KG9B - JUN		0	13	0	0	13
WB9ICH	0	9	3	1	13	
K9GZT		0	6	0	6	12
KA9BHK		0	1	10	1	12
WD9FLJ	0	1	10	0	11	
W9PVD	0	0	1	0	1	

August 2007

STATION		ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
KA9EKG	2	679	652	12	1385 –BPL	
KB9KEG	33	351	33	351	768 –BPL	
K9LGU	0	40	41	0	81	
W9BHL	0	20	55	0	75	
AG9G		0	9	54	0	63

Check us out on the web at http://www.bsss.org

WISCONSINSECTION MANAGER REPORT

(Continued from page 5)

incident action plans and requested mutual assistance for mainly damage assessment within Vernon and Crawford Counties. Great job communicating!

In Southeast Wisconsin, Racine and Kenosha County ECs, Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA, and Frank Moss, KC9ILZ, respectively, worked jointly on behalf of the Red Cross and Emergency Management in their counties to provide communications for damage assessment and evacuation shelters. I believe this was both Jim's and Frank's first activation and they stepped up to the plate!

Mutual assistance was formally requested by several of the counties and all but two operating positions were staffed! This is a great tribute to the teamwork and mutual assistance training we have done in Wisconsin. In addition, these were the first significant activations we have had since the changes in responsibilities for DECs. Gary Payne, N9VE, Southwest Wisconsin DEC and Peter Sweeney, WD9JIB, Southwest Wisconsin DEC, provided district coordination and took a more significant role than any time in the past. The training pays off. In addition, early in the event Mark Smick, N9UNW, DEC West Central Wisconsin was active in determining the extent of damage in his District.

Winlink 2000 was used extensively for the first time during a Wisconsin ARES/RACES activation. Its presence provided effective e-mail reports from the field and command posts.

This is only an estimate, but it appears we had at least 50 ARES/RACES members activated in the State for the flooding situation.

Special thanks to those who had damage to their homes and property and still provided communications for the benefit of their communities!

Finally, I learned a couple of things from this incident. First, I need to add my business e-mail to the Leadership Roster because I don't have access to my personal e-mail while in the office or while traveling. Second, I need Internet access at our cabin in Boulder Junction. Third, and this is primarily from Dave Owen, N9TUU, but I concur, pre-activation of mutual assistance teams needs to be done in these types of events before they are needed or requested. Unfortunately, by the time the teams were requested and communicators could be deployed a lot of hours were lost.

We will take this incident to learn and get better because that is what we do. On behalf of Wisconsin ARES/RACES, thank you to those who put in the long and overnight hours to provide critical communications to our served agencies. We continue to gain respect from them and they know when they request our help, we will answer the call and will work as a professional team. 73! -- Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Section Emergency Coordinator

ARRL Wisconsin Section
Section Manager: Donald E. Michalski, W9IXG
w9ixg@arrl.org

ARES Leadership and Organizational Changes

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

Gary Sorensen, W9ULK, ASEC for Marketing and Recruiting, has replaced **Brian Martin, WA9WGN**, as interim Marquette County EC. Thanks to Brian for his many years of service. Gary will be working with the group to find a permanent EC within the next six months. Please join me in wishing Brian well.

After 11 years as Sheboygan County EC, **Mike Musiel, K9SJ**, has decided to resign. Mike keeps two homes in Wisconsin and northern Michigan so his time has gotten very condensed. We wish Mike the best and thanks for the 11 years! A replacement has not been found and the Sheboygan program closed until a suitable replacement is found.

Richard "Burch" Kelly, W0ZUP, also expressed his desire to resign as Eau Claire County EC. After a very short search his replacement was found. **Bert Spangler, W9ZZI**, has become the new Eau Claire County EC. We thank Burch for his service and look forward to working with Bert!

Tom Meronek, N9TBM, has decided to retire as Waupaca County ARES EC. Tom has lead one of the best small county ARES/RACES groups in the State and will be missed in a leadership position. Inheriting a great group is **Leighton Trice,**

CLUB MEETINGS

(Continued from page 3)

QCWA Chapter 55
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N. Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. mailto:rryokes@execpc.com.

Racine
LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Racine
RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Sheboygan
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Tuesdays. 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

Shell Lake
Northland ARC meetings are held the first Saturday of each month after breakfast. Location: Schmitz's Economart Deli. Located on US Hwy.63 on the south end of Spooner. The meeting will start at approx. 8:00 AM. Breakfast usually starts by 7:30 AM. Come and see what we're about. Anyone, even if you're licensed or not and has an interest in ham radio is welcome to attend! Next Meeting: Sept 4th, 2004 at 8:00 AM. So Please plan to attend!!!!! http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/.

Stevens Point
CWRA Ltd./UWSP ARC Meetings second Wednesday. of each month at 7:30 pm. Science Building on the UW-Stevens Point Campus, Room A107, Stevens Point, WI. Email: jglas776@uwsp.edu. Webpage: www.qsl.net/wb9qfw.

Superior
ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. Meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Secondary Technical Center. The address is: 802 East Central Entrance - Duluth, MN 55811. The board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

W.A.R. WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS
Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State in March, July and November. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: http://www.wi-repeaters.org.

Watertown
WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Room S-114 of the Watertown High School, 825 Endeavour Drive, Watertown, WI 53098 at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday each month.

Waupaca
WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CQ First Tue. Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. CQ Third Fri. Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

Wausau
WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION Meetings: 7:00 pm the first Tuesday of the month except for July. The meeting location is the Marshfield Clinic, Wausau Center. Talk in is on 147.135 + PL 114.8. Website is www.wvraclub.org.

West Allis
West Allis Radio Amateur Club Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 80th and Lincoln Ave., West Allis. Meetings in basement. Entrance at rear, off alley. Handicapped accessible. www.warac.org.

West Bend
WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am. Location is the Polk Town Hall, Highway 60 west of Jackson. For more information, call Mike, N9JIY at 262-627-0519, or inquire via the 146.673 repeater.

Wisconsin Rapids
WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month and are held at the McMillan Memorial Library located on the corner of Lincoln St & E. Grand Ave. in Wisconsin Rapids, unless otherwise notified. The meetings start at 6:30 PM and end by 8:00 PM.

2007 GROUND HOG PARTY



Bettie Norbury, K9JGC received a cake honoring her 55 years in Amateur Radio.



The "See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil" award was presented by last years recipient Ken Ebneter, K9EN to this years recipient Sus Musashi, KB0OC

The Rock River Radio Club, the Watertown Amateur Radio Club and Bettie Norbury, K9GJC and Tim Norbury, W9LUB, hosted the traditional "Ground Hog Party" on Saturday, October 13th at the Watertown Moose Lodge.

If you never have attended this Gala Affair, you are missing out on one of the oldest parties for Ham Radio. It originated way back in 1947 and was one of the largest Parties for Ham radio in it's day.

It was originated by Silent Key, Erv Buchart, W9QHR of Watertown and he ran the party until 1976 when it was discontinued.

There was a lapse of Ground Hog Parties until 1976 at which time Theron, W9LUB and Bettie Norbury, K9GJC, took over and ran it until 1988.

With the passing of Theron, the Ground Hog Party became silent too. Bet-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 11)

The Yellow Thunder 2 meter repeater is located high atop the Baraboo Bluffs, 5.5 miles SE of Baraboo on the Pointon Communications Tower.

The repeater transmits on 147.3150MHz with a 123.0Hz CTCSS tone and receives on 147.9150MHZ with a 123.0Hz CTCSS tone.

Our receive antenna is located at the 400 foot level (on the top) and the transmit antenna is located at 310 feet.

The repeater system is all commercial grade, industry standard equipment.

The repeater radio is a Kenwood TKR-750. This unit is rated at 25 watts continuous duty. From there we are driving a Crescend Technologies PSV100-15RF amplifier. 15 watts of input power gives us a nice, clean 100 watt output. The system is controlled by an S-COM 7K repeater control panel.

The transmitter is fed into a Wacom transmit combiner. This allows our repeater to share the antenna at 310 feet with other VHF repeater transmitters.

The receiver gets it's signal from the top antenna at 400 feet. This signal is fed into a Wacom receive combiner, where the signals are pre-selected then amplified and fed into a multi-coupler. From here it goes to our receiver and other VHF repeater receivers.

Emergency Power

At the repeater site we have incorporated a battery-backup system in the event of a power failure. This consists of an APC XS-1500 UPS with 2 external 120AH gel-cell batteries. This will give us an approximate run-time of 6 hours minimum with normal use.

When there is a power failure at the site, the repeater controller makes some changes in how the system operates.

First, the repeater hang-time is reduced to 1 second from 5 seconds.

Second, the word "battery" is appended to the end of the repeater hang-time.

When you are using the repeater during a power failure, when you unkey your mic, you will hear the courtesy tone, a 1 second delay, then "battery". This is to let everyone know that the repeater is on battery power and to keep your transmissions short (if possible).

During extended power outages, which are very rare, we have a small generator available.

BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS CD ROM—NOW AVAILABLE

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k9en@arrl.net

GROUND HOG PARTY

tie reactivated the party in 2002. It proved to be a great success and she solicited help from the two clubs.

21 members, spouses and guests attended. The Moose lodge served their usual fine meal. There was much comradeship and door prizes for all.

Following the meal there was a presentation by Donna Schmitt, KF9FCV about raising and training assistance dogs for the disabled and hearing impaired. Along with here assistance dog Dasher, she demonstrated some of the many tasks that these dogs can do.

Donna is a field representative for Paws With a Cause, a non-profit organization that trains and places hearing dogs, service dogs and seizure dogs at no cost to the recipients.

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Portage, WI 53901

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

October 06, 2007	Madison, WI
October 06, 2007	St. Paul, MN
October 11, 2007	Apple Valley, MN
October 13, 2007	Blaine, MN
October 13, 2007	Mauston, WI
October 13, 2007	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
October 18, 2007	Iron River, MI
October 20, ,2007	Rockford, IL
October 27, 2007	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 27, 2007	Tomahawk, WI
November 03, 2007	La Crosse, WI
November 03, 2007	Madison, WI
November 03, 2007	St. Paul, MN
November 08, 2007	Apple Valley, MN
November 10, 2007	Blaine, MN
November 10, 2007	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
November 15, 2007	Iron River, MI
November 17, 2007	Rockford, IL
November 24, 2007.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
December 01, 2007	Madison, WI
December 01, 2007	St. Paul, MN
December 08, 2007	Blaine, MN
December 08, 2007	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
December 15, 2007	Apple Valley, MN
December 15, 2007	Rockford, IL
December 20, 2007	Iron River, MI
January 05, 2008	Madison, WI
January 05, 2008	St. Paul, MN
January 10, 2008	Apple Valley, MN
January 12, 2008	Blaine, MN
January 12, 2008	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
January 17, 2008	Iron River, MI
January 19, 2008	Rockford, IL
January 26, 2008	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
January 26, 2008	Tomahawk, WI
February 02, 2008	Madison, WI
February 02, 2008	St. Paul, MN
February 09, 2008	Blaine, MN
February 09, 2008	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 14, 2008	Apple Valley, MN
February 16, 2008	Rockford, IL
February 16, 2008.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 21. 2008	Iron River, MI
February 23, 2008.	Tomahawk, WI
March 02, 2008	Madison, WI
March 02, 2008	St. Paul, MN
March 09, 2008	Blaine, MN
March 09, 2008	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 14, 2008	Apple Valley, MN
March 16, 2008	Rockford, IL
March 21. 2008	Iron River, MI
March 23, 2008.	Tomahawk, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 3rd Thu.	Iron River, MI
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Rockford, IL
Monthly, Last Sat. (Except Mar., Jun., Aug., & Dec.)	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
Monthly, Last Sat. (January thru October only)	Tomahawk, WI

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walkins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A Hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Get your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html
or
ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, W1AW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2007 test fee at $14.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC.

36th ANNUAL MIDWINTER

SWAPFEST

Ham Radio, Computer, Electronics

W.A.R.A.C. — WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB INCORPORATED — *Over 50 Years*

SATURDAY - JANUARY 5, 2008

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

ADMISSION: $4.00 Advance - $5.00 at Door — FREE PARKING

RESERVED TABLES: (8 foot) 1 or 2 tables: $18.00 each; 3 or more: $16.00 each; $20.00 each at Door (if available)

ELECTRICAL OUTLET: $19.00 (advance only)

AMATEUR EXAMS: 9:00AM-11:15AM at AMF Waukesha Lanes, (across from Expo)

Fee $5.00 — *Bring your:*
- Original license plus copy
- CSCE (if you have one) plus copy
- Photo ID.

The WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Sponsors of: Midwinter Swapfest - WI QSO Party - WARAC Memorial Scholarships - Worked All WI Counties Award

For more information please call Phil, W9NAW, 414.425.3649 or visit www.warac.org

Waukesha County Expo Center
1000 Northview Rd (County Trunk FT)
Waukesha, WI 53188

I-94 west of Milwaukee to Exit 294 (County J)
1.2 miles south to County FT
0.6 miles west to Expo Center

Next Swapfest Date: January 3, 2009

GPS Coordinates
Latitude: 43.03227
Longitude: -88.23948

Swapfest Advance Registration Form

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Dec. 30, 2007 *Early reservations suggested*

Advance Tickets _____ $4.00 ea. = _____
Table Reservations _____ _____
Electrical Outlet _____ $19.00 ea. = _____
(Advance only)
Total Enclosed $ _____

◀ 1 or 2 tables - $18.00 ea.
3 or more - $16.00 ea.

NOTE: Table reservation does not include admission.

Name: _____ Call: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: ____ ZIP:_____
Phone: _____-_____-_____ Email (optional): _____

Mail with #10 business size S.A.S.E. to:
WARAC SWAPFEST
P. O. BOX 1072
MILWAUKEE, WI 53201

Adams, WI

Adams City Fire Dept., 101 N. Main St., Highway 13, Adams, WI. Contact Edward J. Wagner (608) 584-4858. ab9fn@arrl.net

Appleton, WI

Fox Cities ARC (ARRL/VEC) All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building, 1302 East Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. No walk-ins after 9 a.m. For information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. Email: w9mdp@arrl.net.

Eau Claire, WI

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. Grace Lutheran Church, 202 W., Grand Ave. Enter off 2nd Avenue entrance, Eau Claire, WI

Technician, General and Extra Class exams. Walkins welcome. Examination session coordinator: Jonathan E., Case, (715) 834-1540. www.ecarc.org. w9eau@ecarc.org.

Fond du Lac, WI

Fond du Lac ARC (ARRL/VEC). Community United Methodist Church, 701 Minnesota Ave., North Fond du Lac. 9:00 a.m. Walk-ins allowed. Contact: Douglas J. Schultz, 920-922-3088, schultz74@charter.net.

Houghton MI

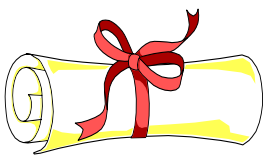
Sponsor: HARC/CCRAA. Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: George R Thurner home phone, (906)337-2542, cell phone (906) 369-2542 Email: W8FWG@ARRL.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: Michigan Tech University-US Hwy 41. Wadsworth Residence Hall, East End of Campus, G04w (Downstairs/Turn Left), Houghton, MI 49931

Iron Mountain, MI

Sponsor: W5YI VEC. Time: 9:00

(Continued on page 10)

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

(Continued from page 9)

AM (Walk-Ins Allowed). Contact: Mark J Lewis, (906)774-6598. VEC: W5YI VEC. Location: Dickinson County Library, 401 South Iron Mountain St., Arrival Time: 9:00 AM. Conference Room, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Iron River, MI.
Sponsor: Iron Range ARA (IRARC). Time: 6:30 PM (No walk-ins). Contact: Dan R Waters, (906)265-4240. Email: dmwaters@ironriver.tv VEC: W5YI VEC. Location: Iron River Lutheran Church, Across From Mc Donald's. Pre-Registration Required. If no applicants - No testing. Iron River, MI 49935

Janesville, WI
Saint John Lutheran Church, Conference Room, 292 N. Parker Drive, upper parking entrance. Janesville, WI. Contact Scott A. Fry, (608) 449-8513. e-mail: radarkilowatt@aol.com

La Crosse, WI (ARRL/VEC).
Sponsor:Riverland Amateur Radio Club Location: American Red Cross-2927 Losey Blvd. LaCrosse, WI Time: 9:00a.m. (NO Walk-Ins) Registration IS required-Contact: Roger Reader 608-783-0723 readers@centurytel.net.

Madison, WI
The Madison Wisconsin, Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club-sponsored VE testing has moved to the new University of Wisconsin Space Place, 2300 South Park Street, lower level, Madison, WI in the Villager shopping center complex. Exams are given the first Saturday of the month, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, no appointment is necessary. Questions may be directed to Carolyn Kammen, NQ9A at 608-246-0225 (home phone) or sent to NQ9A@arrl.net.

Marshfield, WI
Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. Saint Joseph's Hospital, 611 Saint Joseph Ave., Room 124, Hospice South Bldg., Marshfield, WI 54449. Contact Lee A. Olson, (715) 389-8888.

Mauston, WI
Location is the Mauston City Hall,from 9am - noon. Holding testing sessions here quarterly for all elements. Walk-ins always welcomed and Talk-in via the 146.850 (pl 123.0) repeater. The contact person is myself dave@n0trq.com or 08-548-2271. Sponsored by Juneau County Amateur Radio Club (JCARC).

Menomonie, WI (ARRL/VEC)
Sponsored by the Dunn County Area Amateurs Location: University of Wisconsin, 121 10th Avenue, UW Stout Millennium Hall, NW Entrance, Menomonie, WI 54751. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: James L. Guenther, (715)232-2625. Email: guentherj@uwstrout.edu

Menominee, MI
Marinette-Menominee Amateur Radio Club. Location: The cafeteria of Bay Area Med Center, US-41 in Menominee. Building located next to KFC just off the Interstate Bridge. All classes given. Advance notice preferred, but not required. Test fee is $10 with two pieces of identification required. Contact Jeff Rymer, N9PQU at jrymer@ez-net.com or Ed Engleman, KG8CX, at dxer@cybrzn.com. We will monitor the 147.000 (107.2 pl) repeater in event further directions or info is needed.

Merrill, WI
Merrill Amateur Radio Group. 3:15 p.m. (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Myron J. Oestreich (715) 355-6902 e-mail: kb9stb@margdx Location: Gail's Place, n4090 Cth. K, Lincoln Center Banquet Hall.

Milwaukee, WI
The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club VEC holds test sessions on the last Saturday, except in March, June, August, and December. In addition, we test for one morning during the West Allis RAC Swapfest in January and at Superfest in April. All sessions except WARAC swapfest are held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 at Amateur Electronic Supply, 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee. Watch for signs directing you to the session room. West Allis RAC Swapfest session is held at AMF lanes across the street from the Waukesha Expo. We usually start earlier; contact VEC for more info.
Bring along your original license or CSCE (if any), and one good quality photocopy of each, plus a form of identification (driver's license is fine). Exam fee is $5.00; walk-ins are welcome. Contact: Tom Fuszard at 262-789-7975 or tom@supremecom.biz.

Negaunee, MI. Sponsor: HIAWATHA ARC. Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Richard E Schwenke, (906)249-3837, Email: n8gba@chartermi.net VEC: ARRL/VEC. Location: Health Dept Bldg (Downstairs), 184 US 41 E, Entrance @ Back of building. Negaunee, MI 49866

Oshkosh, WI (Omro)
Oshkosh VE Team Amateur Radio exams monthly on the second Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon. Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is $6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail: lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Portage, WI
10:30 a.m. Portage Public Library, 253 W Edgewater St., Portage, WI. Contact Ed Wagner, (608) 584-4858. e-mail: ab9fn@yahoo.com.

Racine, WI
ARRL VEC Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert M. Frederiksen, (262) 637-6588. e-mail: kb9zaf@arrl.net.

Rockford, IL
Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC) Third Saturday of every month. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Held at St. Anthony Hospital, 5660 E State St., Rockford, IL. Contact: Randy Scott, W9HL, W9HL@ARRL.NET (815-877-4328).

Sheboygan, WI
Sheboygan County ARC (ARRL/VEC). Exams are held in the Red Cross Building, 2032 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The test areas are handicap accessible with signage posted to direct candidates to the proper area of the building. Walk-ins are accepted, however notification ahead of time of your intention to appear would be appreciated. Contact: Art Pahr K9XJ, 920-876-2370. N8029 Willow Road k9xj@arrl.net Plymouth, WI 53073-2929

Tomahawk, WI
Tomahawk Repeater Association ARRL/VEC team. Last Saturday of every month January thru October. Registration at 8:30, testing at 9:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Hospital, 401 W. Mohawk Dr., Tomahawk. Contact Diane Lodge Hamman, KA9BHK, 145.43 MHz or telephone 715 453-3908.

St. Paul, MN
Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC) First Saturday of the month. Site: Roseville City Hall, 2660 County Road C, NW Corner County Road. C & Lexington Ave., Roseville MN 55101. Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)Contact: David M Buending, (952)486-0836, Email: AD2B@ARRL.NET, VEC: ARRL/VEC.

Washington Island, WI
Contact: John W. Van Sandt, (217) 826-8821. n9yrx@hotmail.com

Waukesha, WI (Milwaukee VEC)
Sponsor: West Allis Radio Club Swapfest, Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed. Contact: John G. Kraak, (262) 548-9585. Email: jkraak@wi.rr.com. Location: AMF Waukesha Lanes, across from Waukesha EXPO, Waukesha, WI 53186

Wausau, WI.
Sponsor: WVRA. Time: 8:00 Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Gerald L. Graebel, (715) 42-9542 Email: VEC: ARRL/VEC. Location: Martech Systems, 614 N. 3rd Ave, Wausau, WI 54401. Parking in rear of building.

Swapfests And Other Social

(Continued from page 2)

www.chicagofmclub.org Talk-In: 146.76 (PL 107.2); 147.255+ (PL 114.8); 444.725+ (PL 118.8)Contact: Mike Brost, WA9FTS, 5127 North Monterey Avenue, Norridge, IL 60706. Phone: 708-457-0966. Fax: 708-457-0966. Email: mike2006@comcast.net

September 19-20, 2008. W9DXCC Convention. Holiday Inn, 1000 Busse Road, Elk Grove Village, IL. Northern Illinois DX Association. http://www.w9dxcc.com Talk-In: 147.36. Contact: Bill Smith, W9VA, 2635 Crestwood Lane, Riverwoods, IL 60015. Phone: 847-945-1564. Fax: 847-945-6554. Email: w9va@aol.com

September 20-21, 2008. Peoria Superfest 2008. Exposition Gardens, 1601 West Northmoor Road, Peoria, IL. Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club. http://www.peoriasuperfest.com Talk-In: 147.075 + (PL 103.5). Contact: John Coker, N9FAM, 133 Vonachen Court, East Peoria, IL 61611. Phone: 309-369-7428. Email: n9fam@arrl.net

Further information about hamfests in the area can be found at bsss.org or at http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html If your organization is sponsoring a Hamfest/Swapfest and would like us to list your event, please send the information to Ken Ebneter, K9EN at the address on page 2 or to k9en@arrl.net

Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)
Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315
Robert Loomis, KB9VSQ, Secretary
108 Scarlet Ct.., Reedsburg, WI 53959
YTARC Home Page: http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/

The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm sharp.

We meet in room C128 (EMBS Meeting Room) in the Sauk County Courthouse located at 510 Broadway in Baraboo. Use the Broadway (main) entrance. Doors open at 7:00pm.

Local Nets

Sundays

7:00PM - Sauk County ARES/RACES Weekly Net

8:00PM - Yellow Thunder ARC Sunday Night Net - Featuring ARRL Audio News and This Week In Amateur Radio

Anytime

Skywarn Net - We are the official Skywarn repeater for the area/region when weather conditions warrant.

147.315 Repeater WB9FDZ

(Continued on page 8)

ARES Leadership and Organizational Changes

By Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, SEC WI

(Continued from page 6)

KC9ESN, who has a lot of good experience both professionally and as a very active ARES/RACES member. Waupaca County will be in good hands, but we'll miss Tom!

Thanks to **Pete Johnson, Sr., AB9PJ**, we have a new EC for Wood County! Please join me in welcoming **Dale Jirschele, KC9BLT**, to his new role. Dale enters a program we nearly closed after several months without an EC. Please wish Dale well when you hear him.

I am sorry to report **Curt Poeschl, KC9COI**, has stepped down as Winnebago County EC. Curt has been active with the group for several years and will be missed by the Leadership team. Replacing Curt is a longtime ARES/RACES member and AEC **Nick Luther, K9NL**. Nick has written articles for QST and enjoys the digital side of ham radio. Nick will be a good addition to our Leadership team. Welcome Nick!

After nearly two years of me "encouraging" him, **Joe Senulis, N9TWA**, ASEC for WEM, finally found a person to replace him as Dane County EC! **Tim Pierce, KB9UAJ**, is that person. Tim has been heavily involved in ARES/RACES for a number of years and also serves on the Digital Data Committee for WeComm, Ltd. This worked out for the best because Joe can focus his energy on WEM and Tim can further hone his skills in leading a very important ARES/RACES team. Please join me in congratulations both Joe and Tim!

Check us out on the web at http://www.bsss.org

The Computer Corner

Continued from page 5

ANTIVIRUS	At least four free versions out there are as good or better than any pay-for version!
AUDIO/VIDEO PLAYERS/CONVERTERS	View movies, listen to audio files, and convert from one format to another.
BACKUP	Make safety copies of everything from your Registry to the entire hard drive.
BROWSERS	You have lots of choices other than Internet Explorer, with better, safer features!
CD/DVD BURNERS	Several of these free versions are really very, very good.
DEFRAGMENTERS	Lots of good ones to replace the slooooow version that came with Windows. Some work in the background.
DRIVE and REGISTRY CLEANERS and REGISTRY EDITORS	These keep your machine lean and mean.
DRIVERS	Includes the latest drivers specific for your machine, and also specialized software to backup your drivers.
DUAL BOOT	You can have several operating systems on your machine! Try Vista while keeping XP.
EMAIL/MESSAGING	Much better and safer than Outlook or Outlook Express.
ERGONOMIC UTILITIES	Ease your problems if you have visual, hearing or motor impairments.
FIREWALLS	At least two free ones lead the world in quality.
GAMES	Unlimited in number and style.
GRAPHICS/MULTIMEDIA	Paint, drawing, audio mixing, video mixing programs.
ICON TOOLS	Make new icons, edit old ones, put some where they don't exist now.
MEMORY	Test your memory and pinpoint faulty memory sticks.
NETWORK	Virtually any kind of networking setup, use and monitoring utilities.
OFFICE	Compatible replacements for the MS suite, and more.
PROCESSOR INFO	Is your machine set to utilize the full speed of the installed processor?
SECURITY TOOLS	Look for open ports that should not be open, and more.
SPELL CHECKERS	Stand-alone versions that will work with any writing application.
STARTUP MANAGERS	Will stop programs from loading with Windows that you don't need or want, or add new ones that you do want.
SYSTEM INFO	These tell you every detail about hardware and software in your machine.
UNINSTALLERS	These really remove programs and all their bits and pieces.
WALLPAPER	Nice pictures to enhance your desktop.
ZIP/UNZIP	Utilities to compress and uncompress every kind of file.

That's just a sample. Don't be afraid to explore the possibilities for yourself. Happy Computing! — Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

Renew Your License Online

by Rich Regent, K9GDF

(Continued from page 1)

be no). Vanity Renewals require a $20.80 regulatory fee.

Select Continue to Certify. Read the general certification statements that question your understanding of any claims, correct statements, not being part of a foreign government, and so forth.

Type in your name as a Signature.

Select Submit Application.

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HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!

MADISON SWAPFEST
Mandt Community Center
APRIL 19, 2008
400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton WI
Doors open at 8 a.m.
Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY
P. 0. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890
Swapfest Information Line. (608) 245-8890

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SWAPFEST 08
SUNDAY, JULY 06, 2008
(Held every July)
American Legion Park
Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI
(414) 762-3235, Ask for Verne
P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172
e-mail ryatex@aol.com

Ozaukee Radio Club

HAM RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST
MAY 03 2008—SEPT. 2008

Sept., 2007. ORC outdoor swapfest. Fireman's Park, Cedarburg, WI. Contact: Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, (262) 377-6945 Admission is $5.00 at the gate. No tables to rent. Sell from the back of your vehicle. For current information go to: www.ozaukeeradioclub.org

The Chicago FM Club presents

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SEPTEMBER , 2008
Boone County Fairgrounds
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Amateur Radio, Computers & Electronics
Wed. MAR. 05, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
American Legion Post 434
Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI
(414) 762-3235, Ask for Verne
P.O. Box 102 , South Milwaukee, WI 53172
e-mail: ryatex@aol.com

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Sponsored by the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
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ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF

